

BMP (Windows) Header Format

Windows BMP files begin with a 54-byte header:

offset	size	description
0	2	signature, must be 4D42 hex
2	4	size of BMP file in bytes (unreliable)
6	2	reserved, must be zero
8	2	reserved, must be zero
10	4	offset to start of image data in bytes
14	4	size of BITMAPINFOHEADER structure, must be 40
18	4	image width in pixels
22	4	image height in pixels
26	2	number of planes in the image, must be 1
28	2	number of bits per pixel (1, 4, 8, or 24)
30	4	compression type (0=none, 1=RLE-8, 2=RLE-4)
34	4	size of image data in bytes (including padding)
38	4	horizontal resolution in pixels per meter (unreliable)
42	4	vertical resolution in pixels per meter (unreliable)
46	4	number of colors in image, or zero
50	4	number of important colors, or zero